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DIRECTORATE OF  
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USSR: The Soviets have succeeded in scheduling a meeting of Communist representatives to discuss a "world Communist conference."

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To avoid any suggestion of an implicit anti-Chinese aspect to the meeting, the Soviets apparently have agreed that it will stay away from ideological questions. It will take up only "practical political problems" such as solidarity with North Vietnam, European security, and the Middle East situation.

Although the Soviets will probably bill the meeting as preliminary to an international Communist get-together, they are still far from getting a full-dress international conference.

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the resistance of several parties, particularly the North Vietnamese who want to remain neutral in the Sino-Soviet quarrel, has shown little sign of waning.

The Soviets will use the session to strengthen the appearance of unity among the majority of parties while trying to keep the Chinese on the defensive. Any subsequent meeting the Soviets may arrange is also likely to accomplish only this limited, albeit useful, purpose for Moscow.

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Iraq: Despite underlying discontent with the regime, its overthrow does not seem imminent.

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There is no leader able to muster sufficient power to take over and none eager to inherit responsibility during the period of stalemate with Israel.

Without exception, Iraqis [redacted] would follow Nasir's lead on an Arab-Israeli settlement. Nasir apparently is still viewed as "the only Arab leader" by the man in the street. Iraqi moderates [redacted]

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[redacted] urged the US to press for a "reasonable" Arab-Israeli solution. Otherwise, they claimed, Arab moderates would have no chance to survive the militant radicalism that would come to dominate the Arab world.

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[redacted]  
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Peru: Recent developments pose a new threat to Peru's fragile political and economic stability.

President Belaunde's political prestige received several sharp blows on 12 November. His party lost an important congressional by-election in which the extreme left made a very strong showing.

On the same day the Christian Democratic Party withdrew from the Belaunde government. The decision of the Christian Democrats to sever their four-year-old ties with the administration stems in part from disillusionment with the pace of economic and social reforms and in part from the President's irresolution in coping with the country's economic problems.

The split in the government alliance will increase public demands that Belaunde either deal decisively with the country's problems or step down.

Meanwhile, the economic outlook worsens. The country's foreign exchange reserves are almost exhausted, and the administration will soon have to choose between further devaluation and strict economic controls. Either course will provoke further demands for wage adjustments to match the rising cost of living.

In this charged atmosphere, military leaders are making contingency plans to take over the government if the situation deteriorates to the point where they believe such a step is necessary.

NOTES

Rhodesia- UK: The Rhodesians reportedly have stiffened their terms for a settlement of the two-year-old independence dispute with Britain. Last year they claimed a willingness to provide constitutional guarantees to Africans, but now are said to insist that Rhodesian whites alone will determine the future political progress of Africans. At the same time, the government has tightened racial separation and security laws. Nevertheless, both Salisbury and London have left the door open for further discussions.

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